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Applicant(s) : Werner Haug
Serial No. : NOT YET KNOWN (PCT/CH01/00121)
Int. Filed : February 22, 2001
For : FRANKING MACHINE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

In advance of the first office action, please amend the claims
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Replace current claims 1 - 6 by the enclosed amended claims
1 - 6. A marked-up version of amended claims 1 - 6 is also enclosed.

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 6 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the claims have been
amended to remove improper multiple dependencies.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection
with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office
Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

FK

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October 20, 2001

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ENCLS:

Amended Claims;
Marked-Up Version.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express mail under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

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Friedrich Kueffner

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. Franking machine with an inkjet printing mechanism having at least one print head for printing flat postal objects, such as letters or postcards, inserted into or passing through the machine, comprised of a guide part (317) arranged so as to project from the print head and relative to its jet opening plane and having correlated therewith a transport device for transporting the postal objects between it and oppositely positioned conveying rollers rotating about axes oriented transverse to the conveying direction, wherein the transport device comprises two drive rollers forming together with the guide part a conveying path, which drive rollers, when viewed in the conveying direction (F), are supported before and behind the print head, and counterpressure rollers arranged opposite thereto are provided, which exert a pressure against the drive roller or the postal object to be transported therebetween, wherein the printing mechanism has at least two print heads (301A, 301B) having a common jet opening plane, in that the print heads (301A, 301B), when viewed onto the jet opening plane, are rectangularly shaped, positioned at an acute angle to the conveying direction (F) of the postal objects and positioned partially staggered relative to one another.

2. Machine according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the print heads (301A, 301B) is movable in the direction deviating from the conveying direction (F) of the postal objects relative to the other print head (301A, 301B).
3. Machine according to claim 1, wherein the adjustable print head (301B) is fastened on a print head support plate (304) adjustable relative to a print head support plate (305) which is stationary and receives the stationary print head (301A) and is arranged perpendicularly to the jet opening plane.
4. Machine according to claim 2, wherein the print head support plates (304, 305) are formed by a clamping device (306, 307) acting in the adjusting direction.
5. Machine according to claim 4, wherein the print head support plates (304, 305) resting against one another with their back sides are formed by angled portions at an end arranged in the adjusting direction, wherein between them a spring (307) is provided on an adjusting screw (306) connecting the portions (306).
6. Machine according to claim 3, wherein the adjustable print head support plate (304) can be secured by a screw (309) penetrating it and rotatably fastened within the stationary print head support plate (305).

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. Franking machine with an inkjet printing mechanism having at least one print head for printing flat postal objects, such as letters or postcards, inserted into or passing through the machine, comprised of a guide part (317) arranged so as to project from the print head and relative to its jet opening plane and having correlated therewith a transport device for transporting the postal objects between it and oppositely positioned conveying rollers rotating about axes oriented transverse to the conveying direction, wherein the transport device comprises two drive rollers forming together with the guide part a conveying path, which drive rollers, when viewed in the conveying direction (F), are supported before and behind the print head, and counterpressure rollers arranged opposite thereto are provided, which exert a pressure against the drive roller or the postal object to be transported therebetween, [characterized in that] wherein the printing mechanism has at least two print heads (301A, 301B) having a common jet opening plane, in that the print heads (301A, 301B), when viewed onto the jet opening plane, are rectangularly shaped, positioned at an acute angle to the conveying direction (F) of the postal objects and positioned partially staggered relative to one another.

2. Machine according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein at least one of the print heads (301A, 301B) is movable in the direction deviating from the conveying direction (F) of the postal objects relative to the other print head (301A, 301B).
3. Machine according to [claim 1 or 2, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the adjustable print head (301B) is fastened on a print head support plate (304) adjustable relative to a print head support plate (305) which is stationary and receives the stationary print head (301A) and is arranged perpendicularly to the jet opening plane.
4. Machine according to [one of the claims 2 or 3, characterized in that] claim 2, wherein the print head support plates (304, 305) are formed by a clamping device (306, 307) acting in the adjusting direction.
5. Machine according to claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the print head support plates (304, 305) resting against one another with their back sides are formed by angled portions at an end arranged in the adjusting direction, wherein between them a spring (307) is provided on an adjusting screw (306) connecting the portions (306).

